

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY **USSR**DATE DISTR. **3 JUNE 1954**

25X1

SUBJECT **Information Concerning Alma Ata, Kazakh Republic, USSR**NO. OF PAGES **3**PLACE  
ACQUIRE

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
ACQSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFO

25X1

THIS SECURITY CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Alma Ata 43° North 77° East in the Kazakh Republic of the Soviet Union was a town of approximately four hundred thousand population in 1949. Many refugees had poured into the town during World War II. Seventy-five percent of the population were native Kazakhs, the balance being made up of Russians, Ukrainians and miscellaneous groups, including about three thousand Chinese.
2. The Chinese were an uneducated group and were mainly in Alma Ata as the result of Soviet labor recruitment in China. There had been numerous illegal border crossings by Chinese up until 1949. The Soviet border control more or less closed their eyes to the crossings. Then, too, the recruiting of labor by the Soviets in Chinese border provinces was carried on unofficially. The Chinese were told they would have no trouble crossing into Kazakhstan, indicating that the recruiters had some understanding with border control officials. Some Chinese were employed in nearby coal mines, some in picking and crating of apples but the majority drifted into a "living by their wits" existence. During and immediately after World War II they primarily engaged in black market activities, seeming to have a knack for obtaining scarce items. During the war (and after) many were released from labor camps and told to report to the Chinese Consul within 24 hours. Usually having no identification, the consular offices issued passports to these people. Some held both Chinese and Soviet passports, probably bribing some official to get the latter. However, Soviet passports, visas and identity cards were hard to obtain by bribery, but resident permits and permission to move to other towns were easily obtained if one had money. I do not believe any of the Chinese residents in the area have any fixed political principles. They are characterized by their lack of leadership, organization and community life.
3. Many Chinese requested permission to leave the Soviet and return to China. However, the Soviet authorities would not issue exit visas. It was believed the authorities did not want the Chinese to return to China and tell the people of their villages the true facts about Communism, for they were bitterly anti-Communist. Many were in the position of having lost their Chinese

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DISTRIBUTION

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT &amp; AREA CODES

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

citizenship and had no desire for Soviet citizenship. They had no privileges of education, food rations, clothing rations. They were forced to live in restricted areas of the city. They were denied public temples for worship. As a result they were, and probably still are, men without a country.

4. The Kazakh native is basically anti-Russian and anti-Soviet. However, Soviet authorities have propagandized Soviet-Kazakh "friendship" a great deal. They placed Kazakhs in the top positions of importance, but the native knows that Soviet "advisors" are the real administrative officials. As of 1949 the Kazakh was antagonistic despite much attention given to "friendship" by the Soviets. The Communist ideology has penetrated deeply in Kazakhstan and the younger generation has been thoroughly indoctrinated. Soviet pressures plus the weaknesses of the Moslem religion, the religion of the natives, permitted the Communists to entrench themselves deeply. The anti Communist, anti-Soviet feeling is kept alive by the natives in the age group of 40 and older. [ ] this group [ ] spoke frankly of their anti Communist sentiments. [ ] never heard of any active or passive resistance. Prior to 1939-40 there was resistance. Armed bandits roamed the area. Active resistance to collectivization of the land was present. However, police control was increased and resistance disappeared.

5. Agriculture is the main occupation of Alma Ata, the main form being apple growing. Alma Ata has long been known for its apple orchards, the name Alma Ata itself meaning "the grandfather of the apple". The orchards are located on the hillsides throughout the district of Alma Ata. Other main crops are cotton, tobacco, wheat, sugar beets. However, next to the apple crop, livestock (sheep and pigs) is most important, Kazakhstan being one of the leading livestock producing areas in the Soviet. The cotton grown there is of an excellent quality. It was not processed at Alma Ata, but was shipped to the west. There was a tobacco processing plant at Alma Ata. All in all, the area was excellent for agriculture. The valleys were well irrigated by mountain streams.
6. Around 1949 there were some new copper deposits located near Alma Ata and also some magnesium. To the north, towards Karaganda, there are large coal deposits, in fact the area is regarded as the third largest deposit of brown coal. The mountain rivers provided a good source of electric power near Alma Ata. There was a well developed electric net throughout the area which lent itself to industrial development to the north.
7. Highways were generally of very poor quality and condition. As an example, the road from Alma Ata to the airport was about eight km long, however only two or three km were paved. Usually highways were dirt.
8. Alma Ata was served in 1949 by two airlines plus military aeroplanes. One line was the Alma Ata-Moscow run operating on a schedule of one aeroplane every other day. Regular passenger type aeroplanes with two engines were used. A second air line provided service between Alma Ata and Hami /Qomul, 43° North 93° East/ in Sinkiang Province. The trip took about eight hours and was made by small one-engine aeroplanes carrying from two to six passengers. The line was owned by a joint Soviet-Chinese company and operated on a scheduled basis. Some military equipment and personnel moved in and out of Alma Ata but on the whole there was very little air traffic.

9. There was a central telephone and telegraph system for official use. A few official agencies utilized a dial system telephone. [ ] it had five digits. Underground cables were laid in the city after World War II by Japanese prisoners of war. Outside the city cables and wires were strung on poles. Radio receivers were scarce in the city. Occasionally [ ] small, cheap and weak sets for sale in the stores. Most all official buildings had loudspeakers installed for the workers and there were public speakers spotted on the streets. The emphasis was on group listening. The Chinese Consular Office had a powerful receiver and we were able to listen freely to all

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

25X1

programs. Jamming was very intense, however. While the Voice of America program was being broadcast the jamming was continuous. [redacted] would note intensive jamming over a period of 12 hours. Both Chinese and Russian language broadcasts would be jammed. [redacted] not recall the frequencies jammed nor the origin but because of the intensity believe it emanated from the local radio station.

10. The majority of houses in and around Alma Ata were of log construction and of one-family type. However, two and more families lived in each. Only officials occupied private residences. In 1949 the housing problem was very acute. A living space of 12 ft by 15 ft would have six to eight people, sleeping in double deck beds. [redacted] in 1949 no new construction for housing was underway. Top priorities on construction materials went to industry. For example, a factory in Alma Ata which made agricultural equipment was greatly enlarged during and after World War II. [redacted] it had been converted into a plant for military vehicles.

[redacted] Some new railroad construction was underway near Alma Ata in 1949 [redacted]

11. Sanitation conditions in Alma Ata were very bad. The majority of houses do not have water piped inside nor inside plumbing. Water pumps were scattered throughout the city for public use. The Chinese Consular Office, for example, had no water. There was a central sewage system in the center of the city only. The balance of the city relied on outdoor toilets which were emptied each week by a crew of workmen.
12. Dysentery was a very prevalent disease. Typhus broke out periodically and typhoid fever, to a lesser extent. Tuberculosis was very common. There were three hospitals in the city for the public plus a large government hospital for government personnel only and a hospital for contagious diseases. The public hospitals were extremely dirty. Conditions were deplorable. Equipment was very poor, supplies were very scarce and the personnel was disinterested.

-end-

## LIBRARY SUBJECT &amp; AREA CODES

621.43	123N
811.7	123N
117.503	123N
890.02	123N
725.1	123N
735.1	123N
732.08	123N
754.22	123N
757.92	123N
753.4	123N
753.42	123N
753.63	123N
753.636	123N
855.1	123N
854	123N
644	123N
857.1	123N

CONFIDENTIAL